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**NEWS RELEASE** 

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## Oregon House Passes Bill to Strengthen and Improve Measure 110 Implementation Process

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Oregon House of Representatives passed <u>House Bill 2513</u>, the bipartisan Hope and Recovery bill, which would strengthen and improve voter-approved Measure 110 (<u>The Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act</u>) implementation one year into rollout. At the beginning of the session, Oregon democrats pledged to address the behavioral health crisis in Oregon and this bill is a critical component of that effort.

Specifically, the Hope and Recovery bill will:

- Bolster staffing and improve application processes to speed up approval and get funds out the door;
- Centralize the support hotline to get people connected to services more efficiently; and
- Improve Measure 110 program data collection and accuracy to ensure accountability.

"Evidence shows that a public health approach to substance use and addiction is the most effective, the most humane, and has the greatest impact on our communities," said Representative Rob Nosse (D- Inner SE & Inner NE Portland), Chair of the Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee. "When Oregon voters approved Measure 110, they sent us a clear mandate that instead of punishing people for addiction, we need to focus on expanding treatment. The Hope and Recovery

bill will make sure this initiative is working as intended so Oregonians struggling with behavioral health issues and addiction can continue to get the care they need."

"We need to make sure state investments deliver real benefits for Oregonians seeking care. It's important that we both support agencies and hold them accountable to ensure these dollars result in increased services," said <u>Oregon House Speaker Dan Rayfield</u> (D-Corvallis). "The Hope and Recovery bill will ensure Measure 110 programs continue to reduce hospitalizations and overdoses and improve timely access to care."

"Oregon's Black and Brown families have suffered the greatest impact due to lack of culturally sound, local, safe and affordable services and disproportionately higher rates of arrests," said State Representative Travis Nelson (D- N & NE Portland), Vice Chair of the Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee and a registered nurse. "Just like the rest of our healthcare system, addiction and behavioral health services need to meet people where they are and be focused on their health, not on further criminalizing behavioral health."

The Hope and Recovery bill passed unanimously out of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee last week and now heads to the Senate after a 49-3 vote in the House.

**Background on voter-approved Measure 110:** Oregon passed Measure 110 with a wide margin of support in November 2020. The Measure was developed by drug treatment and recovery service providers, as well as criminal justice reform advocates in response to the high rate of drug addiction and overdoses in Oregon, and the disproportionate impact of those outcomes on Oregon's communities of color. According to the Oregon Health Authority, over <u>60,000</u> Oregonians have received Measure 110-funded services.

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